

Claims:

65. (New) A filled PVA-containing composition comprising, by weight:-
40 to 70% PVA;
8 to 15% plasticizer;
0.5 to 1.5% internal lubricant;
0.0001 to 0.1% external lubricant; and
a filler.
66. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 comprising, by weight, 20 – 50% filler.
67. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 wherein the internal lubricant comprises a fatty acid amide.
68. (New) A composition according to Claim 67 wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or branched C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid amide.
69. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 wherein the plasticiser is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerol, triethylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and C₂-C₈ amides.
70. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 in the form of a tablet or pellet obtainable by cold-pressing.
71. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 wherein the filler comprises inert, inorganic material.
72. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 wherein the filler comprises a superabsorbent material.
73. (New) A composition according to Claim 71 wherein the inorganic filler comprises calcium carbonate.
74. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 wherein the external lubricant comprises

a stearate.

75. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 comprising, by weight:-
 - 50 to 60% PVA;
 - 30 to 40% stearate-coated calcium carbonate;
 - 8 to 15% glycerol;
 - 0.5 to 1.5% octadecanamide; and
 - 0.0001% to 0.1% zinc stearate.
76. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 prepared substantially without melting of the PVA.
77. (New) A composition according to Claim 65 having a moisture content less than about 10% by weight but greater than 0.01% to bind the pellets or tablets.
78. (New) A method of making a composition according Claim 65 comprising:
 - blending the PVA with the plasticizer, the external lubricant, the internal lubricant and the filler, said internal lubricant including a fatty acid amide and said filler comprising a superabsorbent material, in the presence of an amount of moisture sufficient to bind the polymer feedstock into tablets or pellets upon cold pressing; and
 - cold pressing the feedstock into tablets or pellets.
79. (New) A method according to Claim 78 wherein the PVA, the internal lubricant and the filler are blended in a high speed blender.
80. (New) A method according to Claim 79 wherein the PVA, the internal lubricant and the filler are fed into the high speed blender gravimetrically.
81. (New) A method according to Claim 78 further comprising adding moisture to the components to be blended.
82. (New) A PVA-containing composition, comprising a blend of:-
 - PVA;

a fatty acid amide lubricant, wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or branched C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid amide;

from 0% to 20% by weight of a plasticiser selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerol, triethylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and C₂-C₈ amides;

stearate as an additional lubricant component
at least 20% filler.

83. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 wherein the fatty acid amide comprises octadecanamide.
84. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 comprising up to 5% fatty acid amide lubricant, by weight.
85. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 wherein the filler comprises inert, inorganic material.
86. (New) A composition according to Claim 85 wherein the inorganic filler comprises calcium carbonate.
87. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 having a moisture content less than about 10% by weight.
88. (New) A composition according to Claim 87 having a moisture content greater than 0.01% by weight
89. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 wherein the PVA has a molecular weight of at least about 10,000.
90. (New) A composition according to Claim 82 wherein the PVA is partially hydrolysed.
91. (New) A composition according to any of Claim 82 in the form of a tablet or pellet obtainable by cold-pressing.
92. (New) A method of making a PVA-containing composition comprising blending PVA

with:-

a fatty acid amide lubricant, wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or branched C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid amide;

up to 20% by weight of a plasticiser selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerol, triethylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and C₂-C₈ amides; and

stearate as an additional lubricant component;

at least 20% filler; and

pressing the composition into tablets or pellets.

93. (New) A PVA-containing composition, comprising a blend of:-

PVA;

a fatty acid amide lubricant, wherein the fatty acid amide is a straight or branched C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid amide;

up to 20% by weight of a plasticiser selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerol, triethylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycols and C₂-C₈ amides;

stearate as an additional lubricant component

a filler, wherein the filler comprises calcium carbonate.